The A. F. of L. Weekly News Service gives news accounts and official interpretations of matters affecting labor occurring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and contains other information of benefit to the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR
WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

Listen to Frank Edwards Every Night

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Truman Plans Call For Higher Incomes

Paints 'Rosy' Economic Picture; Asks 42 Billion Budget

Washington.—President Harry S. Truman asked Congress for $42,400,000,000 to carry out social security, housing, national defense, foreign aid, and other government commitments for the fiscal year beginning next July 1.

The request followed by a few days his report on the nation's economic health in which he favored higher average family incomes to meet living costs and government taxes.

Mr. Truman and his council of economic advisers foresaw an output of $300,000,000,000 annually, 64,000,000 jobs, and an increase in annual income of $1,000 per family by the end of 1951.

AFL officials said the report was "too rosy" in the face of present conditions and short term prospects. They pointed out there are now 1,500,000 more unemployed persons this year than last and that 630,000 unemployed persons exhausted all their unemployment compensation benefits during the third quarter of 1949.

A significant fact of Mr. Truman's report, AFL officials said, was the declaration that "the soundest general formula (for increasing purchasing power) is for money wages to increase with productivity trends in the whole economy."

This is an endorsement of the AFL point of view that productivity increases should be distributed in the form of higher wages rather than lower prices.

Economically, Mr. Truman recommended these projects which have AFL support:

Revisions in the tax structure; housing for middle-income families; Columbia River Valley Authority; federal aid to education; extend and liberalize social security and unemployment insurance; extend rent control one year; continue foreign recovery programs; authorize program for technical assistance to underdeveloped countries.

In his budget message, Mrs Truman proposed among other things:

General taxes—Moderate but unspecified increases, excise taxes likely to be cut.

Education—$300,000,000 for federal aid to local schools.

Labor—Create fair employment practices commission, encourage industrial safety, increase unemployment compensation and extend coverage.

Payroll taxes—Asks $3,000,000,000 boost to finance expanded social security and start of health insurance program.

Non-Discrimination Law Creates Jobs

Ithaca, N. Y.—New York's 1945 state law against discrimination has made a difference to job-seeking Jews, Negroes, and members of other minority groups, according to an independent study of the law in action by Felix Rackow, published this week by New York's pioneer School of Industrial and Labor Relations at Cornell University.

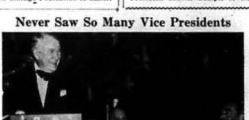
"The law has opened up job opportunities by eliminating discrimination in public utilities, insurance companies, banks, businesses, industries, and unions," Rackow concludes.

He said that contrary to the beliefs of opponents of the law, there is no evidence that business in New York State has been affected by the law. He said some neighboring states have also passed anti-discrimination legislation, thereby reducing any competitive disadvantage for New York's business concerns, and the law has meant a new deal in employment for members of minority groups in many instances.

Chicago Change

Chicago. — WGN, Mutual Broadcasting outlet, now has a series the AFL Frank Edwards news commentary at 12 m. Chicago time instead of 11:10 a.m. The program is heard also at 9 p.m. over WCFL, owned by the Chicago Federation of Labor.

Never Saw So Many Vice Presidents



Washington.—Vice President Alben W. Barkley gets a hearty laugh from AFL Secretary-Treasurer George Meany and Secretary of State Dean Acheson at Gompers Memorial Dinner at which he said he had never seen so many vice presidents in one place. Nine of the AFL's 13 vice presidents were seated at the head table with Mr. Barkley.

President Truman Honors Gompers

Washington.—President Truman tells Gompers Memorial Dinner that he recalls AFL founder as "the originator of the great movement which the labor free." He is applauded, l. to r., by Vice President and Mrs. Alben W. Barkley, AFL President William Green, AFL Secretary-Treasurer George Meany and Secretary of State Dean Acheson. Immediately below Mr. Truman are seated, l. to r., John P. Frey, president of the AFL Metal Trades Department and Gompers' biographer; Vice President John Keenan and President Chester Sample of the Molders and Foundry Workers Unions.

VETS' CHECKS READY

Washington.—The first of 16,000,000 checks for the $2,000,000,000 National Service Life Insurance special dividend will be mailed January 16, Veterans Administration announced.

The mailing operation will be done by contractors and not by the U. S. Treasury. The goal is to mail 200,000 checks daily each week, or a total of 1,000,000 checks weekly.

Georgia Opens State Meetings Starting Gompers Campaign

Working for Those Million New Members

Washington.—Harry O'Reilly (left), AFL director of organizing, whose main interest these days is urging AFL members and officials everywhere to get 1,000,000 new members by February 22, 1950, gives a chance to tell his views to President Martin P. Durkin (center) of the Plumbers Union and James A. Brownlee (right) secretary-treasurer of the AFL Metal Trades Department.

O'Reilly Lists Other Rallies Marking Centennial

Washington.—Georgia Federation of Labor opens the 1950 conference series of state meetings marking the start of the Samuel Gompers Centennial Year drive for 1,000,000 new AFL members.

Harry O'Reilly, AFL director of organizing, told the capacity audience of AFL union officials, organizers and rank and filers in the Atlanta Labor Temple that in the cardinal principle of the AFL is still to "proclaim the organizing of the unorganized."

Mr. O'Reilly attended the January 7-8 meeting fresh from the huge Samuel Gompers Memorial Dinner here.

"The meeting was an enthusiastic success," O'Reilly said. "We set off to a good start in our effort in this centennial year to give every workingman in America the opportunity to join with his fellow workers in the American Federation of Labor to improve the economic, social and civic position of all workmen."

Mr. O'Reilly is due to be the principle speaker at an organizing rally today by the Central Trades and Labor Union of the Lower Rio Grande Valley, at Harlingen, Texas, on Jan. 14 and 15.

A. L. Rhodes, director of southern organization work, and AFL organizers in that area have been called to the conference.

Other statewide organizing and political rallies already arranged include:

Ohio Federation of Labor (dedication of new home), Columbus, Jan. 21 and 22; Indiana Federation of Labor, Indianapolis, Jan. 21 and 22; Minnesota Federation of Labor, St. Paul, Jan. 27; Texas State Federation of Political Education, Austin, Jan. 27; Louisiana League for Political Education, Alexandria, La., Jan. 28; Connecticut Federation of Labor, New Haven, Jan. 29; Pennsylvania Federation of Labor, Harrisburg, Jan. 30 and 31; West Virginia Federation of Labor, Charleston, W. Va., Feb. 11; Virginia Federation of Labor, Richmond, Jan. 15; Kansas Federation of Labor, Wichita, Jan. 21; Vermont Federation of Labor, Barre, Jan. March 5.

The AFL convention last year in St. Paul called on every state federation to hold a Gompers Centennial organizing and political rally at the start of the year. Arrangements have been started for most of these rallies.

These meetings aimed at enlisting 1,000,000 new members are in honor of Samuel Gompers, founder and first president of the AFL who was born 100 years ago on Jan. 27, 1850.

Stress 8 Million Edwards Sponsors

Washington.—"Eight million Americans present Frank Edwards and the Taft-Hartley law.

Have you heard that greeting every night at 10 o'clock?

If not, listen.

Those words open the American Federation of Labor nightly news and commentary by Frank Edwards, nationally-known liberal commentator, broadcasting from Washington.

Mr. Edwards' terse summary of the major news events of the day, his refreshing commentary, and his exclusive reports follow the introduction spoken by any commercial announcement.

Mr. Edwards' style is friendly and interesting and his voice pleasant.

The program is carried on 147 stations of the Mutual Broadcasting System and 8 stations owned by labor-backed organizations.

Labor editors are urged to publish the station and time of the Edwards broadcast in their newspapers as a membership service.

Farm Union Is Exempt From T-H

Washington.—The AFL National Farm Labor Union is exempt from the Taft-Hartley law.

The National Labor Relations Board ruled unanimously that the union cannot be prosecuted under the Taft-Hartley Act because it is not a labor organization as defined by the law.

The ruling was the third important decision in one week in favor of AFL unions in critical areas of enforcement of the law which the AFL wants repealed.

These decisions, upholding struck work clauses, unfair lists and the farm union's right to strike, made a more devastating argument against the wasteful bureaucracy and red tape created by the unwieldy Taft-Hartley law and its unwarranted interference in internal union affairs than many of the speeches against the act.

The National Farm Labor Union was denied the right of certification under the Taft-Hartley Act, was nevertheless being prosecuted under the law by General Counsel Robert N. Denham for an alleged illegal boycott.

The board's first ruling on this question was made in a case that grew out of a strike at the Di Giorgio Fruit Corporation ranch, Bakersfield, Calif., in progress since 1947.

A local of the National Farm Union, seeking recognition, picketed the ranch and business places where ranch products were delivered. The farm union was charged with violating the secondary boycott provision of the law as alleged illegal boycott.

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Sun Hurls Last Lie About Unions; Folds

By ARNOLD BEICHMAN
New York Correspondent for AFL News Service

New York.—The New York Sun, an ultra-rightist, virulently anti-labor journal, died last week after living for an overripe old age of 117 years.

Death came after a long coma. Post-mortem diagnosis of the vital organs revealed it had died during a cataleptic seizure; chronic hardening of the arteries, poor circulation, and ulcerated stomach walls caused by too much alcohol about the dead. The 1909 income tax amendment to the Constitution were.

The passing of the New York Sun was not a pretty sight because with its last death-rattle it gasped out an accusation that New York's trade unions had killed it and then its wretched heart gave out. Its last will and testament—or perhaps better its suicide note—makes it difficult to speak good about it, as one should about the dead.

The Sun has been sold to the Scripps-Howard New York World Telegram; rather what was sold was the name and good will because with its last death-rattle it gasped out an accusation that New York's trade unions had killed it and then its wretched heart gave out. Its last will and testament—or perhaps better its suicide note—makes it difficult to speak good about it, as one should about the dead.

The Sun has been sold to the Scripps-Howard New York World Telegram; rather what was sold was the name and good will because with its "goodwill"; that's what it said. The likelihood that the cause of labor liberalism will be the gainer by the Sun's sale to the Scripps-Howard interests are remote. In the writing unless Roy Howard, the newspaper czar, has undergone a change and is a Pauline vision, a prospect even more unbelievable.

But forevermore in the newspapers' obituaries will the Sun be cited as the myth that labor killed a New York newspaper. It is ironic in life the Sun lied about labor—so, in death, the Sun served the same obscene purpose.

"Despite continued warnings of the economic consequences," said the Sun's deathbed statement, "various unions have forced and are continuing to force, higher wages, until, in the newspaper industry as a whole, they have risen beyond reason. In the 10-year period from 1939 to and including 1949, the average advance in individual pay of the Sun's employes was 80.4 percent. In the same period the price of newsprint rose from $48 to $100 a ton. Prices of all other supplies increased in corresponding ratio.

Even with pulse failing, the Sun could still play games with figures. It didn't say what the actual dollar wages had risen to, used a percentage. Yet the annual increase was 8 percent, certainly not outrageous when the price of food and over-all cost of living were soaring beyond the matching power of any increase. Certainly, the 80.4 wage increase was less than the more than 100 percent newsprint increase. You can be sure that the Sun never issued to the newsprint monopolists, even when they were demanding black market prices, any "warnings of the economic consequences" of uneconomicable newsprint cost increases, nor is there any known record of similar warnings to makers of "all other supplies" whose prices were "increased in corresponding ratio."

Yet the Sun wheezed that "the deeds of the unions have lurked here in New York—what they are working elsewhere throughout the nation—an unprecedented and increasing number of executives among newspapers which once were great and strong." Let it be noted for future times that the Sun had no union of its newspapermen unlike the metropolitan papers with American Newspaper Guild contracts. Let it be also noted that the wages paid in the AFL printing trades were no different than those paid by other New York news-papers which seem to be thriving.

The Sun died because it had to die just like the dinosaur or pterodactyl. The Sun died because in a city which four times voted for Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal, a city millionally populated with overwhelmingly union-minded wage-earners and family breadwinners, the Sun was an aging mistress undergoing unpleasant cilmacteric agonies.

Green Says New Housing Bill Aid To AFL Families

Washington.—AFL President William Green said that the new cooperative housing amendment introduced at the opening session of Congress paves the way for decent housing for thousands of American families in the moderate income group.

Mr. Green said in a statement:

"The introduction by Senator Maybank and Representative Spence of the cooperative housing amendment to the Middle Income Housing bill paves the way for decent apartment homes for thousands of American families in the cooperative housing movement.

"This new amendment, which represents a modified version of the cooperative housing section of the Middle Income housing bill now before the Congress, will set up a vigorous and healthy cooperative housing movement.

"All the last convention the American Federation of Labor unanimously endorsed the cooperative housing program for middle income families. We were most pleased when President Truman in his State of the Union message last week endorsed the cooperative housing program.

"The American Federation of Labor strongly endorses the cooperative housing amendment which has now been introduced."

Puerto Rico Sends Gompers Greetings

Washington.—The Puerto Rico Free Federation of Workingmen sent greetings to AFL President William Green at the session of the Samuel Gompers Memorial Dinner on Jan. 6.

The message, signed by the late Bernardo F. Paz Granela of the Puerto Rico Federation, said:

"On the occasion of the celebration of the centennial anniversary of the birth of our beloved founder and first president of the AFL, the Free Federation of Workingmen of Puerto Rico expresses fraternal greetings and sentiments of gratitude to the memory of the labor leader deceased.

"It is altogether proper and fitting for organized labor through America to render a tribute of respect to the memory of the man whose great work and sincere and unfailing devotion to the cause of labor, has meant so much, not only for continental United States and Puerto Rico, but for the whole world as well.

"Organized labor honors itself by honoring the memory of our never-to-be-forgotten Samuel Gompers. Puerto Rico will never forget him, as it was he who helped Santiago Iglesias in the great task of organizing the laborers of Puerto Rico."

San Francisco Unions Fete Teen-Age Group

(Special Correspondence)

San Francisco.—The joyous laughter and excitement of happy children is still ringing through the halls of San Francisco's Labor Temple.

Just as there are fingers in the hearts of the members affiliated with the San Francisco Labor Council of the AFL that deep feeling of satisfaction which comes from an act of charity and brotherly love.

But let's start from the beginning —and this beginning was 2 years ago when Jim Symes, secretary-treasurer of the Union Label Section, brought up the disturbing thought that in the throat of Christmas parties for the kiddies one segment of our younger people was being left out—the boys and girls—our teenagers—the "neither too young nor too old" group to enjoy a party.

Jim's idea caught on immediately and there was born right then and there the annual Christmas party for the Golden Gate City's teenager organized by the Union Label Section.

Something the success of that first party would tax the prolific vocabulary of a Hollywood press agent—and second, even more so!

Organization is a keyword to every union man and is essential to the success of every undertaking. And so this year, as last, the Union Label Section's Original Christmas Tree Committee was formed.

Their job was an easy one because everyone they met they met with an eager, splendid cooperation.

The same 6 ambassadors as in 1948 were again contacted—one Jewish, one Protestant and the third, Catholic. Each teenager was asked to list one present he'd like to receive from Santa, naming 2 alternate gifts to give Mr. Claus a little leeway.

Business agent for Santa Claus was Ted Wille, secretary-treasurer of Local 860, Warehousemen's Union, whose assignment it was to go about making certain that Jimmie got that pair of baseball mitts, Mary, a pair of horsehide slippers, and, yes, the one Junior had stamped Ted—a 5-gallon aquarium for 12-year-old Billie.

Then came the day of the party—and whatta day and whatta party—it was the most successful of the 6 buses manned by the Chauffeurs Union called at the headquarters for 154 thrilled teenagers and escorted them to the Labor Temple —there was a movie and entertainment by a band and orchestra from the Musicians Union — a soft-drink party served by the Bartenders Union — a turkey dinner, complete with all the trimmings and refreshments of the Cooks and Catering Union — and then the distribution of the presents, including the dozens of toys and blouses supplied by the International Ladies Garment Workers Union.

And finally when day's end had come, the very excited group of young men and women were again escorted in buses back from whence they came, their eyes reflecting the happiness they surely felt.

The party proved one thing—union folks are a bunch of suckers, for at evening's end there were to be found many a misty eye—but then happiness does that, doesn't it?

Chicago Acts to Stop Deliverymen Killings

By DAN SMYTH
Chicago Correspondent of AFL News Service

Chicago.—After a conference with AFL union leaders, Mayor Martin H. Kennelly of Chicago ordered special police measures to put a wave of crime against deliverymen.

During the last year, two milk drivers, a taxi driver and a laundry driver have been murdered at their work, and there have been several hundred robberies and holdups.

Latest victim was Henry Tatum, 38, a member of the Bakery and Pastry House Drivers and Chauffeurs Union, Local 712, who died of the shot to death Christmas Eve between deliveries.

The shots which killed him were heard by a customer in the store to whom he had delivered a laundry bundle only a moment before. The owner of the house ran outside to find the dead driver in a snowdrift between buildings. His pockets had been emptied of the money, his wallet and driver's license.

A reward of $1,000 was posted by the laundry drivers' union for information leading to solution of the murder. A delegation of AFL leaders, headed by President William A. Lee of the Chicago Federation of Labor, interviewed the mayor to demand better police protection.

George Knott, president, and Jean B. Frank, secretary-treasurer of the laundrymen's local, reported 150 drivers have been robbed and slugged in the last two years. Lee said there were 54 holdups of deliverymen in the last 6 months.

In addition, more than 20 drivers are on disability leave, dragged by bandits because they didn't have enough money to satisfy the stick-up nails.

Mayor Kennelly ordered his police commissioner, James C. Pendergast, to assign special squads to concentrate exclusively on guarding delivery trucks, especially in known trouble spots.

To develop the protection program, a meeting yesterday was held between labor leaders and top police officials.

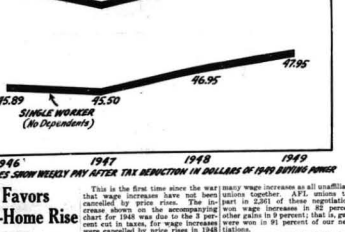
The city building commissioner was directed to stiffen enforcement of a city ordinance which requires owners of apartment buildings, stairways and hallways are black and light at high noon.

In addition to Lee and the laundrymen's spokesmen, labor leaders who appealed to the mayor included Frank Brown, president of the Teamsters' Joint Council; Thomas J. Haggerty, secretary-treasurer of the milk drivers' local, and Dan McNamara, secretary of the street car men's union. Lee also is president of the bakery drivers' union.

Truman Favors Take-Home Rise

Washington. — President Truman and his council of economic advisers favor increased family incomes and take-home pay for workers in their annual economic reports.

The AFL Monthly Survey reports that buying power of the average factory workers' weekly pay envelope, after tax deduction, was higher in 1949 than 1948, due partly to wage increases won by unions and partly to the slight decline in prices.



This is the first time since the war that wage increases have not been matched by price rises. The increase shown on the accompanying chart for 1948 was due to the 3 percent cut in taxes, for wage increases were cancelled by price rises in 1948 as in previous postwar years.

A study of 4,000 wage negotiations from January through November, 1949, shows that the American Federation of Labor was chiefly responsible for wage increases won this year. These negotiations covered at least 4,500,000 workers, including those in AFL and other unions. Wage increases won were in 2,382 negotiations, of which 1,304, or 67 percent, were conducted by AFL unions. That is, our affiliated unions won twice as many wage increases as all unaffiliated unions together. AFL unions took part in 2,301 of these negotiations, won wage increases in 82 percent, other gains in 9 percent; that is, only were won in 91 percent of our negotiations.

This is our record for 1949; as we all know, these wage gains were won without forcing general price rises, for living costs declined during 1949. We intend to go forward in 1950 to win further wage gains, cooperating with employers to cut costs wherever they are willing to make this possible. By cooperation we mean genuine joint effort based on submission of cost records; we do not mean acquiescence in employer dominated speed-up schemes.

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AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

SUPPLEMENT

WILLIAM GREEN, *President* WASHINGTON, D. C., FRIDAY, JANUARY 13, 1950 GEORGE MEANY, *Secretary-Treasurer*

Listen to Frank Edwards On Mutual at 10

AFL Vice Presidents Return

New York.—Left to right: AFL Vice President David Dubinsky, Mrs. Dubinsky and AFL Vice President Matthew Woll return from the London conference founding the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions and extended visits with trade unionists in other European countries. Mr. Dubinsky and Mr. Woll were the last members of the AFL delegation to return from the historic mission.

On '50 Firing Line

Washington.—Joseph Keenan, director of Labor's League for Political Education of the AFL, making speeches the length and breadth of the land to help AFL precinct workers up to the firing line in the battle to elect a friendly Congress in 1950. He is shown in characteristic speech-making effort.

AFL Union Sends Parity Checks

Washington.—President Stanley W. Oliver of the AFL International Federation of Technical Engineers Union holds a hand full of the 44-cents parity checks sent to nonunion engineers throughout the country as part of the union's "every-member-get-a-member" campaign during the Gompers Centenary drive for 1,000,000 new AFL members. Because the dollar earned by the engineer, architect and draftsman is worth only 56 cents when contrasted to the 100-cents dollar of the farmer and industrial worker, the union sent the parity checks in token restoration to full value of the engineer's shrunken dollar.

Raise Low Incomes By Unions Says AFL

FIGURE EACH CLU SHOULD ADD 1,250

Asheville, N. C.—The Asheville Central Labor Union figures that each of the 800 AFL Central Labor Unions should add 1,250 new members to enable the AFL to reach its goal of 1,000,000 new members in 1950, as a memorial to Samuel Gompers, AFL founder.

CLU President James F. Barrett said the Asheville Central Labor Union has already started adding new members.

Washington.—The AFL told Congress that the nation's low-income workers can improve their lot by organizing into labor unions.

George D. Riley, AFL national legislative representative, so advised the joint committee on economic report studying low-income families. He said the AFL "takes strong issue with the do-nothing attitude" of people who say nothing can be done for the low-income groups or who argue that "the poor are always with us."

More than one-third of the nation's non-farm families receive less than $2,000 a year.

Organized labor is convinced that something can be done to improve the conditions of low-paid workers because that is exactly what labor unions have been doing for the past 100 years," Mr. Riley said.

"The experience of our affiliated international unions tell us that many workers are low paid not because their productivity is low but because their bargaining power is weak," he said. "Only through union organization can workers in low-paid jobs find a way to obtain the collective strength necessary if they are going to bargain with their employers on an equal basis."

Mr. Riley said that the Taft-Hartley law threatens this long-established AFL policy that "union organization is the primary method whereby workers can raise their living standards."

"The Taft-Hartley law has prevented our unions from carrying forward effectively their organizing programs," Mr. Riley said. "Unless this law is repealed, there is grave danger that the efforts of organized labor to eliminate poverty will be completely frustrated."

In addition to repeal of the Taft-Hartley law, Mr. Riley also recommended that Congress widen the coverage of the minimum wage law, broaden social security coverage and farmers' parity, extend benefit payments under social security and unemployment compensation; enact health insurance, federal aid to education and special measures to help apprentice-training, handicapped and older workers, members of minority groups and farm laborers.

"The AFL," Mr. Riley said, "finds no difficulty in suggesting who shall participate in a better economy. The answer is 'everybody,' including the low-income families who still are lowest on the totem pole of our national economy."

Woll to Report On German Tour

Washington.—AFL Vice President Matthew Woll will report on his recent tour of western Germany and visit with trades unionists there at the next meeting of the AFL executive council in Miami.

Mr. Woll said after his visit to Germany that the trade unions had succeeded in rebuilding their organizations in an extremely short period.

"The strength of this great democratic movement (third only to the United States and Great Britain) is reassuring for the future of Germany," Mr. Woll said. "I am convinced that this is the greatest organized force within Germany which is willing and able to build Germany into a free and democratic nation and which also is willing to work together with the rest of the world to assure a permanent peace."

Mr. Woll said he is glad dismantling of German plants will come to an early end. He urged the overhaul of the German civil service system to weed out former Nazis and men who will not serve the new democratic republic with honest and sincere loyalty. He said he favored elimination of trade barriers between European countries to put the continent on "a sound economic basis."

The AFL vice president praised "the work that is being done by former U. S. labor officials attached to the U. S. High Commissioner in Germany," Harvey W. Brown, former president of the International Association of Machinists and former AFL executive council member, is director of the commissioner's office of labor affairs at Frankfurt.

Succeeds Keenan

MOFFETT STUDIO, CHICAGO

Chicago.—William F. Cleary has been elected secretary of Chicago's 400,000-member Chicago Federation of Labor. Cleary succeeds Joseph Keenan, who resigned to devote full time to his job as director of Labor's League for Political Education. Mr. Cleary has been business representative of Chicago Local 134 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

Texas Federation Marks 50th Year

Austin, Tex.—The Texas State Federation of Labor observed its 50th anniversary on Jan. 15.

The federation was formed Jan. 15, 1900 in Cleburne with Brother F. N. Graves presiding over 20 delegates representing 8,478 members.

"On the federation's 50th anniversary we feel quite sure that the increase in membership and prestige is far beyond the dreams and expectations of those few individuals who were so far-sighted and wise enough to organize the great federation which annually brings together over 500 delegates," Executive Secretary Paul C. Sparks said in his monthly report.

During its golden anniversary year, the Texas Federation will play host to the 70th AFL convention at Houston next Sept. 18, climaxing the AFL's celebration of the 150th anniversary of the birth of Samuel Gompers.

The Texas Federation has called its state-wide program and political rally to be held Friday, Jan. 27, the anniversary of Mr. Gompers' birth, a Saturday.

An intensive drive is being made to get that every member of organized labor pays his poll tax in Texas before the Jan. 31 deadline.

Chicagoans Select Cleary for Keenan

(Special Correspondence)

Chicago.—William F. Cleary, business representative of the AFL electricians' union, Local 134, IBEW, was elected secretary of the Chicago Federation of Labor, succeeding Joseph D. Keenan.

Keenan resigned Nov. 1 to devote his full time to his position as director of Labor's League for Political Education. Keenan and Cleary rose to leadership in the same local union, of which Keenan is still secretary.

Cleary was elected by 470 votes to 451 for Sidney Lustgarten, secretary of the Chemical Workers, Local 241. Lustgarten represents 400 local unions claiming a total membership of about 400,000. The secretaryship is a key position in the Chicago labor movement.

Cleary was born in Chicago on March 5, 1906. He began his apprenticeship in the electricians local when he was 17. His training was interrupted by World War I. He enlisted in the army the day the United States entered the conflict. After 22 months' service overseas he returned to complete his apprenticeship in Chicago in 1923.

He has been business representative of Local 134 since 1945. His work was an important factor in the enormous expansion of the electrical unions since the enactment of the Wagner labor relations law.

Edwards Broadcast Wins Wide Acclaim

Washington.—Frank Edwards, liberal news commentator and member of the American Federation of Labor, is winning wide acclaim among radio listeners.

He has already received hundreds of letters of praise for his Monday-through-Friday broadcast over Mutual Broadcasting stations at 10 p.m. Are you listening?

Here are three comments plucked from Mr. Edwards' big stack of mail:

New York City.—"I find your news comments of an honesty that makes it easier to hear Fulton Lewis and his too numerous strips."

Ruston, La.—"We are of the opinion that your commentary of the news is the most objective and unbiased report we have had the pleasure of listening to in a long, long time."

Morgantown, W. Va.—"I feel called upon to congratulate you on the informative and interesting manner in which you present the news. I was amazed to hear a news commentator giving the constructive side of the evils he criticized. It is wonderful to find at least one person who sounds off about the things that are awry in this confused world and who has given enough consideration to what he says that he has devised, or at least some idea of, a better thing to replace the object of his criticism."

Tobin Rules 2 Jobs Hazards for Youth

Washington.—Youngsters under 18 will not be permitted to operate certain power-driven metal-working machines cited as hazardous in a new order proposed by Secretary of Labor Maurice J. Tobin pursuant to the child labor provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act.

Machines declared hazardous in the proposed regulation, known as Hazardous Occupations Order No. 5, include rolls for bending or reducing the thickness of metal, all punching and pressing machines such as punch presses, brakes for bending sheet metals, power and drop hammers, and all shears used for cutting metal.

Secretary Tobin simultaneously proposed an amendment to Order No. 7 prohibiting the employment of minors under 18 on manlifts—endless belts equipped with platforms operating between fixed levels in the floors of a building. Outlawed in some jurisdictions for use by all workers, these manlifts are primarily used in the construction of grain elevators, flour mills and the like.

PREDICTS SHOW SUCCESS

Washington.—The Union Label Trades Department predicts that the fifth AFL Union Industries Show in Philadelphia May 8-13 "will again be a gorgeous spectacle and a sensational success." The prediction was made on the basis of plans and arrangements for exhibits and entertainment features now being completed.

Samuel Gompers Wrote 5 Books

Washington.—Samuel Gompers, founder and first president of the American Federation of Labor, wrote 5 books during his active life. He was a prolific writer of pamphlets and articles, however. Here is a list of some of his writings:

Labor—Labor in Europe and America, American Labor and the War, Labor and the Common Welfare, Labor and the Employer, Seventy Years of Life and Labor.

Pamphlets—The American Labor Movement, Labor Makeup, Abstracts and Aspirations; The Union Shop and Its Antithesis; Collective Bargaining; The Voluntary Nature of the Labor Movement; Organized Labor Its Relation to Industry; The Fundamentalists; Giant Power; Its Dangers and Potentialities and Administration; The Future of Labor and Its Relation to Servant or Coordinator; What Does Labor Want?

The Eight-Hour Workday, Its Inception, Enforcement and Interpretations; Eight Hours, the Workers and the Eight-Hour Workday and the Shorter Workday, Its Philosophy; Shorter Workday Problems Before the Forces; Labor and Its Attitude Toward Trusts; Labor and Its Attitude to No Compulsory Arbitration; Organized Labor, Its Principles, Its Promise and Fool Friends; Kansas Court of Industrial Relations; Labor and the Injunction's Contention on the Injunction Abuse; Letters to a Party; Boycotts, Methods vs. Trade Union Methods; Trade Unions to Be Boosted—Not Boycotted; The Truth About Soviet Russia and Bolshevism; Real Patriotism vs. Professional Farmers; Why the Peace Treaty Should Be Ratified.

Editor of American Federationist from March, 1894, Volume 1, until his death, December, 1924, Volume 31, with the exception of one year.

Writer of numerous articles for labor magazines and periodicals.

MARKS FIFTH YEAR

Washington.—The Textile Challenger, published by the AFL United Textile Workers, celebrated its fifth anniversary in January 1950. Edited by Ben Haskell, The Challenger has won many prizes for editorial excellence.

Our Task to Raise World Standards

Washington.—Labor's Monthly Survey of the AFL says that one of the most practical tasks of the newly-formed International Confederation of Free Trade Unions is to raise living standards in other countries.

AFL Secretary-Treasurer George Meany says the goals of the world labor body are bread, freedom and peace.

The Monthly Survey shows in the accompanying chart the purchasing power of hourly earnings in terms of typical American workers' diet.

Assuming that it takes an average American worker one hour's work to buy food for a family of four for one day, the Russian worker in his home could earn only 18 percent (or about one-fifth) of that amount for the same diet.

Workers in Soviet Russia are worse off than in any other country. But in 8 other countries, the workers' hour of work will buy less than half as much food as in USA.

The result is that workers in these other countries buy foods that are either less nourishing or more monotonous than the American worker's food. Also, after paying for their food they have less money left to buy other necessities.

If the chart were shown in terms of foods workers normally buy in their own countries, some countries would be a few points higher, and Australia would be above USA because most of them wisely feed and cheaper they but the difference would not be significant. Low wage levels and low productivity account for low living standards.

The ICFTU recognizes the importance of securing development and raise living standards and provides for a program of industrialization and collective bargaining for workers' organizations, security in increasing wealth resulting from improvements in farming and industry.

BREAD AND PEACE SEEN LABOR GOAL

Washington. — AFL Secretary-Treasurer George Meany foresees the highly successful future for the newly established International Confederation of Free Trade Unions.

Mr. Meany, writing in the American Federationist, official AFL monthly magazine, Mr. Meany recently returned from the London conference at which the ICFTU came into being.

The ICFTU must not only carry back the battle cry of communism and all other forms of totalitarianism, but must also carry the message of freedom and enthusiasm to implement the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, London that will translate into action the Charter of United Nations, bread, freedom, peace—of the manifesto adopted by the ICFTU.

HONOR NORMAN THOMAS

New York.—AFL President William Green is among the almost one dozen AFL-vice chairmen for the testimonial luncheon to Norman Thomas here Feb. 4. AFL Vice Presidents Daniel J. Tobin, president of the Teamsters Union, and David Dubinsky, president of the Ladies Garment Workers Union, are others.

Whaddya Buy? U.S. Asks In Price Index Revision

Washington. — The government is checking your buying habits.

What do you buy? How much do you pay?

The collection of this and other information with which to revise the Consumers' Price Index caused the Department of Labor began in Baltimore, Birmingham, Boston, Cincinnati, Detroit, Jacksonville, Memphis, Minneapolis, Mobile, Portland, Maine, and St. Louis.

The AFL contends the revision is long overdue and that it will show far less which has too long made the index operate against labor's interest.

The index, which is issued monthly by the Labor Statistics Bureau of Labor Statistics, is the official yardstick used to measure price paid by wage earners and low-salaried groups for the goods and services they buy. Under the terms of an appropriation enacted at the recent session of Congress, BLS is directed to revise and, as necessary, to revise the index, which at present is based on buying habits of city families in the mid-1930s.

The total job will take 2 years, Ewan Clague, Commissioner of Statistics, said. It involves, he said, collection of information on characteristics of about 500,000 dwellings in the United States; detailed records of expenditures from more than 20,000 families; and the collection of more than 400,000 price quotations from thousands of retail stores and service establishments.

Essentially the Consumers' Price Index measures the changes in the cost of a market basket of goods and services bought by wage earners and clerical-type families in large cities. The present index is based on the cost at present includes goods and services bought by about 2,000 families were buying in 1934-36. Clague pointed out that consumers no longer bought isobuses then and few mechanical refrigerators. Families were buying huge quantities of silk hose where nowadays nylon hose have almost supplanted it. He listed other characteristic changes in the American standard of living, such as:

What used to be only seasonal foods are now on grocers' shelves all the year around.

Many more families have telephones and radios, and some have television sets.

Frozen foods were practically unknown; there were no comparative supplies of baby foods, packaged cereals or bank loan credit.

Studies of modern housing construction will be of particular importance in the revised CPI, Clague explained. He said that, for example, rents, by control, are not a true reflection of change in the cost of all housing. Rent is an important element in housing, but important, too, is that a larger percentage of families now own, or are buying their own homes. And rents may no longer reflect accurately the cost of housing, especially the cost to home owners.

Through February, 1950, BLS will make surveys of the characteristics of representative dwellings to adjust the index of rent changes in order to include higher rents charged to houses and apartments built since 1946, the rents for which are free from rent control. This adjustment to the rent index will be made before the total index revision is completed.

TASSLER PROPOSES READING ROOMS

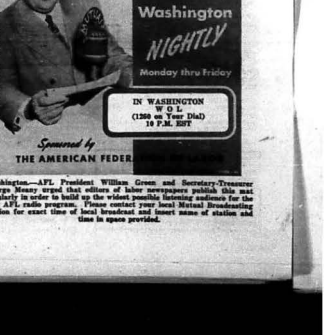
Indianapolis.—Bernard Tassler, managing editor of The American Federationist, proposes that unions establish reading rooms and that a "open house" at least once a year to which the public is invited to see organized labor.

Tassler, contained in an article in the AFL Laundry Worker, in line with that made by Secretary of Labor Maurice J. Tobin before the 69th convention at St.—Paul "to sell the idea that everybody is entitled to pay."

Mr. Tassler pointed out that industry is using the "open house" device and that unions can use it advantageously to win friends.

"And we can never have too many friends—whether we are campaigning for repeal of the Taft-Hartley Act or at any other time," he said. "The labor reading rooms would form attention on labor publications."

Get Millions to Listen to This Man!



Washington.—AFL President William Green and Secretary-Treasurer George Meany urged that editors of labor newspapers publish this next regularly in order to build up the widest possible listening audience for the new AFL radio program. Please contact your local Mutual Broadcasting station for exact time of local broadcast and insert name of station and time in space provided.